

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 00410 010208Z

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00
PM-03 DODE-00 EB-04 OMB-01 TRSE-00 PRS-01 SP-02 L-01
/043 W

-----010241Z 130818 /64

R 310840Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7015

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 0410

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEAN, RP, US, SN

SUBJECT: SINGAPOREAN COMMENTS ON US-PHILIPPINE RELATIONS

1. RECENT CONVERSATIONS I HAVE HAD WITH PRIME MINISTER
LEE KUAN YEW AND FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM FOCUSED
PRIMARILY ON ASEAN MATTERS, BUT BOTH COMMENTED BRIEFLY
ON US-PHILIPPINE RELATIONS ON THE BASIS OF CONVERSATIONS
WITH THEIR FILIPINO OPPOSITE NUMBERS DURING PM LEE'S
RECENT PHILIPPINE VISIT.

2. PM LEE TOLD ME HE FOUND PRESIDENT MARCOS VERY "TOUCHY"
ABOUT THE US AS A RESULT OF THE RELEASE OF THE DEPART-
MENT'S HUMAN RIGHTS STATEMENT ON THE PHILIPPINES.
INITIALLY, LEE HAD RECEIVED THE IMPRESSION THAT MARCOS
WOULD IN CONSEQUENCE "SIT ON" THE OPENING OF A US-
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PAGE 02 SINGAP 00410 010208Z

ASEAN ECONOMIC DIALOGUE. RAJARATNAM TOLD ME THAT THE
PHILIPPINE BUREAUCRACY HAD INDEED BEEN HOLDING BACK
ON THIS MATTER UNTIL MARCOS' REAL ATTITUDE TOWARD THE
US BECAME APPARENT. HOWEVER, IT HAD BEEN POSSIBLE FOR
SINGAPORE TO GET THE PHILIPPINES TO GO ALONG WITH A
STATEMENT IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE CALLING FOR A JAPAN-
ASEAN AND A US-ASEAN ECONOMIC DIALOGUE, AND THINGS ONCE

AGAIN WERE MOVING.

3. RAJARTANM WAS INCLINED TO CREDIT THE IMPROVED CLIMATE WITH RESPECT TO THE US AND ASEAN TO THE PRIVATE TALKS WHICH PM LEE HAD HELD WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS. LEE HAD TOLD RAJARATNAM SUBSEQUENTLY THAT HE HAD STRESSED TO MARCOS THE STRATEGIC NECESSITY FOR THE US TO STAY ON IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND MAINTAIN THE BALANCE OF POWER, AND MARCOS HAD AGREED. (MARCOS HAD RECENTLY MADE A PUBLIC STATEMENT TO THIS EFFECT, RAJA RECALLED.)

4. PM LEE HAD NOT MENTIONED TO RAJA WHETHER THE SUBJECT OF THE US BASES HAD COME UP IN THE LEE-MARCOS TALKS, BUT RAJA FELT THAT THIS COULD HAVE BEEN SUBSUMED IN THEIR DISCUSSION OF THE US STRATEGIC ROLE.

5. IN ANY EVENT, RAJA HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT US-PHILIPPINE RELATIONS WERE NOW ON THE UPTURN. AS EVIDENCE, HE MENTIONED THAT THE GOS EMBASSY IN MANILA HAD JUST REPORTED A MOVE BY ROMULO TO EASE TAX RESTRICTIONS ON AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN IN THE PHILIPPINES.
HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, RELATIONS WITH REGIONAL ORGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SINGAP00410
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770034-0963
Format: TEL
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977012/aaaaablp.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5f5c9ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3506650
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SINGAPOREAN COMMENTS ON US-PHILIPPINE RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, RP, SN, US, ASEAN, (LEE KUAN YEW), (MARCOS, FERDINAND)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5f5c9ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009